

Dec. 10, 2011

Outline:

'Army of Tom' Concert Nets \$10,000!

East Central Community College President Dr. Phil A. Sutphin (second from left) presents a \$10,000 check to Thomas W. Carson, which represents net proceeds from a benefit concert held Saturday, Nov. 12 at the Neshoba County Coliseum in Philadelphia in honor of the longtime director of bands who is battling cancer. Country music star Randy Houser, an ECCC alumnus from Lake, headlined the concert, which also featured performances by several area bands, many of whom are former ECCC musicians. Also pictured are (from left) concert planning committee member Vicki Blaylock, choral director/music instructor; Carson's wife, Brenda, who serves the College as director of financial aid; and concert planning committee members Dr. Lavinia Sparkman, vice president for instruction; and Mickey Vance, vice president for business operations. Other committee members included Grant Morris of Philadelphia and ECCC staff members Luke Howell, Natalie Emmons, Joe Barrett, Maria McLeod, Artie Foreman and Bubby Johnston. (EC Photo)



Oct. 24, 2011

News Release:

Area Bands to Join Randy Houser for Carson Benefit

Several area bands are scheduled for one-hour performances prior to country music star Randy Houser, who is headlining a benefit concert for East Central Community College Director of Bands Thomas W. Carson, scheduled Saturday, Nov. 12, 2011, at the Neshoba County Coliseum in Philadelphia.

Kicking off the six hours of musical entertainment at 4 p.m. is *Cotton Row*, whose members include Carmen Ezell (lead vocals) of Decatur, and Matt Hines (guitar, vocals) and Jon Richard Crowell (guitar, vocals), both of Kosciusko. Ezell is a former vocalist with the Collegians, ECCC's rock 'n' roll band directed by Carson who is also a guitarist in the popular group.

South Bound takes the stage at 5 p.m., and includes Jeff Stewart (vocals), Joe Latham (bass, vocals), Clint Marshall (drums, vocals) and Andy (Cookie) Henderson, (keyboards, harmonica), all of Philadelphia, and former Collegian Nic Massey (lead guitar) of Union.

Next up at 6 p.m. will be *Deluxe Southern Impalas*, whose members are former Collegian Josh Burton (lead vocals), Paul Busby (lead guitar) and Jamie Nance (bass guitar, vocals), all of Decatur, and Dewayne Moore (drums) of Forest.

Remedy follows at 7 p.m., and includes Barry Richardson (lead vocals, rhythm guitar), Joe Rush (lead guitar, backup vocals) and former Collegian Grant Morris (bass guitar, backup vocals), all of Philadelphia, and Darryl Dukes (backup vocals) of Meridian.

The "All-ECCC" group, *Rico and the Border Patrol*, perform at 8 p.m., and includes Nathan Spears (lead vocals, drums), Casey Stokes, (lead/rhythm guitar, backup vocals), Matt Woods (lead/rhythm guitar) and Colby "Rico" Horton (bass guitar, backup vocals), all of Philadelphia. Spears, Stokes and Horton are former Collegians, and Horton and Woods were members of the Wall O' Sound Marching Band.

Houser, a Lake native, is a former vocalist with the Collegians and was a member of the Wall O' Sound Band.

Houser, who went by "Shawn" when he attended ECCC in 1995-97 (ck dates), gives credit to Carson for providing him with the proverbial "kick in the butt" to not only pursue an education at East Central, but to ultimately propel him toward building a successful career in country music.

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"I was playing clubs at the time and the thought of going to school was foreign to me," Houser was quoted on *Country Weekly.com*. "I was judging a talent competition one night and Mr. Carson was and still is one of those people that takes kids like me, recognizes their talents and often ends up giving them scholarships to play music at East Central. I would have never had the money to go to school without his help."

Carson was diagnosed with esophageal cancer earlier this year and recently completed six weeks of radiation/chemotherapy to battle the disease. Surgery is scheduled near the time of the November 12 benefit concert. He has served as ECCC Director of Bands since 1982.

"I always knew that he (Carson) believed in me and my music," continued Houser in the article. "I'll never forget the moment he looked me in the eye and said, 'If you can get out of this town, you need to go.' I moved to Nashville soon after. He helped me. Now it's time I help him."

Tickets to the benefit concert are \$25 each and may be purchased at all Citizens Bank locations in ECCC's five-county district, Mississippi Music in Meridian, and the College's Public Information Office, 601-635-6353.

Concessions will be available outside the Neshoba County Coliseum.

Net proceeds are designated to assist Carson with medical and other expenses.

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Randy Houser Gives Back to Good Samaritan

He helped Randy go to college.

Tricia Despres | Published: Oct 12, 2011



Randy Houser is giving back to a man who made a difference in his life.

Growing up in a small town and perfectly content with playing his music, Randy doubted he would ever go to college. Yet the encouragement of a teacher by the name Thomas Carson gave Randy the "little kick in the butt" he needed to not only pursue an [education](#) (#) at East Central Community College in [Decatur](#) (#), Miss., but to ultimately propel him toward building a successful [country music](#) (#) career.

"I was playing clubs at the time and the thought of going to school was foreign to me," Randy tells *CountryWeekly.com*. "I was judging a talent competition one night and Mr. Carson came up to me and asked me if I wanted to go to college. Come to find out that Mr. Carson was and still is of those people that take kids like me, recognizes their talents and often ends up giving them [scholarships](#) (#) to play music at East Central. I would have never had the money to go to school without his help."

As the longtime director of bands at East Central, Tom Carson was diagnosed with [esophageal cancer](#) (#) earlier this year.

Randy will play a benefit [concert](#) (#) scheduled for Nov. 12 at Neshoba County Coliseum in Philadelphia, Miss., to help raise money toward treatments.

"I always knew that he believed in me and my music," says Randy. "I'll never forget the moment he looked me in the eye and said, 'If you can get out of this town, you need to go'. I moved to Nashville soon after. He helped me. Now it's time to help him."

For more details, [read about it on the Neshoba County website \(http://neshobacounty.net/news/view.php?entryID=332\)](http://neshobacounty.net/news/view.php?entryID=332).

Band Line Up For Carson Benefit - November 12, 2011

- 4-5 - Cotton Row
- 5-6 - South Bound
- 6-7 - Deluxe Southern Impalas
- 7-8 - Remedy
- 8-9 - Rico and the Border Patrol
- 9-10 - Randy Houser

Cotton Row:

- collegians*
- 1. Carmen Ezell - Lead Vocals - Decatur, MS
 - 2. Matt Hines - Guitar, Vocals - Kosciusko, MS
 - 3. Jon Richard Crowell - Guitar, Vocals - Kosciusko, MS

South Bound:

- collegians*
- 1. Jeff Stewart: Vocals - Philadelphia, MS
 - 2. Nic Massey: Lead Guitar - Union, MS
 - 3. Joe Lathem: Bass, Vocals - Philadelphia, MS
 - 4. Clint Marshall: Drums, Vocals - Philadelphia, MS
 - 5. Andy (Cookie) Henderson: Keyboards, Harmonica - Philadelphia, MS

Deluxe Southern Impalas:

- collegians*
- 1. Josh Burton - Lead Vocals - Decatur, MS
 - 2. Paul Busby - Lead Guitar - Decatur, MS
 - 3. Jamie Nance - Bass Guitar, Vocals - Decatur, MS
 - 4. Dewayne Moore - Drums - Forest, MS

Remedy:

- collegians*
- 1. Barry Richardson - Lead Vocals, Rhythm Guitar - Philadelphia, MS
 - 2. Joe Rush - Lead Guitar, Backup Vocals - Philadelphia, MS
 - 3. Grant Morris - Bass Guitar, Backup Vocals - Philadelphia, MS
 - 4. Darryl Dukes - Drums, Backup Vocals - Meridian, MS

Rico and the Border Patrol:

- collegians*
collegians
Band
Band
collegians
- 1. Nathan Spears - Lead Vocals, Drums - Philadelphia, MS
 - 2. Casey Stokes - Lead/Rhythm Guitar, Backup Vocals - Philadelphia, MS
 - 3. Matt Woods - Lead/Rhythm Guitar, Keyboard - Philadelphia, MS
 - 4. Colby "Rico" Horton - Bass Guitar, Backup Vocals - Philadelphia, MS

Randy Houser Band:

- 1. Randy Houser - Lead Vocals